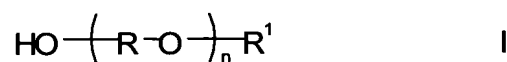


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A copolymer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by free-radical polymerization ~~of comprising~~ polymerizing:

- (A) at least one monoethylenically unsaturated C₄-C₈-dicarboxylic anhydride,
 - (B) at least one vinylaromatic compound from the group consisting of styrene and substituted styrenes and
 - (C) at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer which contains at least one heteroatom and is different from (A),
- and partial esterification of the resulting copolymer with
- (D) alcohol alkoxylates of the formula I



in which the variables have the following meanings:

R is C₂-C₆-alkylene radicals, which, when n is > 1, may be identical or different;

R¹ is C₁-C₃₀-alkyl;

n is 1 to 200,

and ~~if desired~~ optionally hydrolysis of the anhydride groups still present in the copolymer to give carboxyl groups.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The copolymer as claimed in claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the molar ratios of (B) to (A) and of (C) to (A) are each in the range from 0.1:1 to 10:1 and the molar ratio of [(B) + (C)] to (A) is 20:1 to 1:2.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The copolymer as claimed in claim 1, ~~or 2, in~~
~~which~~ wherein 5 to 80% of the carboxyl groups present are esterified.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The copolymer as claimed in ~~claims 1 to 3, in~~
~~which~~ claim 1, wherein the anhydride groups still present are hydrolyzed to carboxyl groups.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The copolymer as claimed in ~~claims 1 to 4,~~
~~which comprises~~ claim 1, comprising maleic anhydride as monomer (A).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The copolymer as claimed in ~~claims 1 to 5,~~
~~which comprises~~ claim 1, comprising styrene as monomer (B).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The copolymer as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to~~
~~6, which comprises~~ claim 1, comprising (meth)acrylic acid, (meth)acrylic esters or amides,
vinyl alkyl ethers, N-vinylformamide, N-vinylpyrrolidone, 1-vinylimidazole or 4-
vinylpyridine as monomer (C).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of copolymers as claimed in any of claims 1~~
~~to 7 as~~ An additive for detergents and cleaners comprising the copolymer as claimed in claim
1.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of copolymers as claimed in any of claims 1~~
~~to 7 as~~ A graying-inhibiting additive in detergents comprising the copolymer as claimed in
claim 1.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of copolymers as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 as~~ A detergency-boosting additive in detergents comprising the copolymer as claimed in Claim 1.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A detergent formulation ~~which comprises copolymers as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 as additive~~ comprising the copolymer as claimed in Claim 1.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A solid detergent formulation comprising

- (a) 0.05 to 20% by weight of at least one copolymer as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1,
- (b) 0.5 to 40% by weight of at least one nonionic, anionic and/or cationic surfactant,
- (c) 0.5 to 50% by weight of an inorganic builder,
- (d) 0 to 10% by weight of an organic cobuilder and
- (e) 0 to 60% by weight of other customary ingredients, such as extenders, enzymes, perfume, complexing agents, corrosion inhibitors, bleaches, bleach activators, bleach catalysts, color transfer inhibitors, further graying inhibitors, soil release polyesters, fiber and color protection additives, silicones, dyes, bactericides, dissolution improvers and/or disintegrants,

where the sum of components (a) to (e) is 100% by weight.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A liquid detergent formulation comprising

- (a) 0.05 to 20% by weight of at least one copolymer as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1,

- (b) 0.5 to 40% by weight of at least one nonionic, anionic and/or cationic surfactant,
- (c) 0 to 20% by weight of an inorganic builder,
- (d) 0 to 10% by weight of an organic cobuilder,
- (e) 0 to 60% by weight of other customary ingredients, such as sodium carbonate, enzymes, perfume, complexing agents, corrosion inhibitors, bleaches, bleach activators, bleach catalysts, color transfer inhibitors, further graying inhibitors, soil release polyesters, fiber and color protection additives, silicones, dyes, bactericides, organic solvents, solubility promoters, hydrotropes, thickeners and/or alkanolamines and
- (f) 0 to 99.45% by weight of water.

Claim 14 (New): A method for producing a detergent and cleaner comprising adding the copolymer as claimed in claim 1 to a detergent and cleaner formulation.

Claim 15 (New): A method for inhibiting graying in detergent formulations comprising adding the copolymer as claimed in claim 1 to a detergent formulation.

Claim 16 (New): A method for boosting the detergency in detergents comprising adding the copolymer as claimed in claim 1 to a detergent formulation.